

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5713

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1232

FOR AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN (EUR/EE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJ: MIHAILOV CASE

1. WITH MIHAILOV IN REPORTEDLY SERIOUS CONDITION AND GROWING VOA AND OTHER MEDIA ATTENTION, WE ONCE AGAIN FACE QUESTION OF WHETHER USG SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT RAISE MATTER WITH GOY. HIS MOTHER AND SISTER HAVE SENT YOU FOLLOWING CABLE: "YOUR EXCELLENCY, AS AMERICAN CITIZENS WE WOULD LIKE TO LET YOU KNOW THAT OUR SON AND BROTHER YUGOSLAV WRITER MIHAJLO MIHAJLOV IS HELD INCOMMUNICADO AND NEAR DEATH FROM HUNGER STRIKE IN AN UNHEATED CELL AT PRISON OF SREMSKA MITROVICA. PLEASE HELP IN ANY WAY YOU POSSIBLY CAN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. GOD BLESS YOU. RESPECTFULLY, VERA MIHAJLOV AND MARIA MIHAJLO IVUSIC, 3408 BRANCH AVENUE, APARTMENT 1921, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22302." THERE ARE GOOD ARGUMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF CASE WHICH YOU WILL WANT TO CONSIDER.

2. ON BALANCE WE BELIEVE A LOW-KEY APPROACH IN WASHINGTON TO POINT OUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS IS WARRANTED, FOR EXAMPLE A THOMPSON-STRBAC MEETING. FIRST, CONGRESS HAS NOW RULED THAT MILITARY SALES CANNOT BE MADE TO NATIONS VIOLATING ELEMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS--THE MOMENTUM IN OUR NEW MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE JEOPARDIZED SHOULD MIHAILOV DIE. SECOND, YUGOSLAVIA

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AS HOST OF THE FOLLOW-UP CSCE MEETING IN 1977, HAS A

SPECIAL OBLIGATION AND INTEREST IN SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVING PRINCIPLES
OF CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT--INCLUDING REUNITING FAMILIES. WE
MIGHT SUGGEST THAT MIHAILOV BE INFORMED THAT HIS REQUEST TO
JOIN HIS MOTHER AND SISTER IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE
GRANTED WITHIN A SUITABLE FACE-SAVING PERIOD AFTER HE CEASED
HIS HUNGER STRIKE. SWEITZER

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